



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

TO: MDPH Hinton State Lab Staff
FROM: Commissioner Auerbach
DATE: August 30, 2012
RE: Forensic Drug Lab Investigation

We are sharing information with staff at the Hinton State Lab, because you may hear this afternoon about an investigation of the forensic drug lab. Press may try to approach staff entering/exiting the Hinton Lab for an interview or statement. Staff should follow the usual protocols by deferring all press inquiries to the Communications Office at 250 Washington St.

As many of you know, the FY13 budget directed the State Police (MSP) to take control of the forensic lab from the Department Public Health. The transition began in June and, at that time, DPH shared information with the MSP regarding an internal investigation that was conducted months earlier into a chemist who was found to have broken protocol when testing drug samples for criminal cases. The employee in question resigned in March. The MSP and Attorney General's Office are now investigating whether the scope of the problems is more widespread than originally thought.

DPH is fully cooperating with MSP and the Attorney General's Office on their investigation. DPH has placed on administrative leave the division director responsible for overseeing the forensic lab at the time that DPH was in charge.